

Message Text

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17

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 L-03 AID-05 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06

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R 252109Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6109

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 4557

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, EC

SUBJ: CEOSL EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESS

REF: QUITO 3309 AND 4197

1. CEOSL EXTRAORDINARY UNIFICATION CONGRESS WENT OFF IN CUENCA AS PLANNED. AT LEAST 28 FEDERATIONS PARTICIPATED (FINAL COMPLETE INFORMATION NOT YET AVAILABLE) AND 410 DELEGATES WERE ACCREDITED.

2. JOSE CHAVEZ WAS ELECTED SECRETARY GENERAL BY LARGE MAJORITY ALTHOUGH ELECTRICAL WORKER CARLOS CASTRO AND POSTAL WORKER EFRAIN REDROVAN ATTRACTED SOME VOTES. (REDROVAN WAS ORIGINALLY MEMBER OF VILLACRES' CEOSL #2 EXECUTIVE BOARD AND CARLOS CASTRO IS LONG TIME VILLACRES SUPPORTER.)

3. AMONG 16 MEMBERS OF NEW UNIFIED CEOSL EXECUTIVE BOARD ARE FIVE FORMER MEMBERS OR ALTERNATE MEMBERS OF THE VILLACRES BOARD. THEY ARE ANSELMO ACEBO OF HOTEL WORKERS, EFRAIN REDROVAN OF POSTAL WORKERS, MEDARDO ARIAS OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS, GERMAN CANTOS AND ANGEL DALMIRO CORTEZ, THE LATTER OF THE PETROLEUM WORKERS.

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4. ON DAY OF CONGRESS, VILLACRES GROUP PUBLISHED PAID

ADVERTISEMENT IN QUITO'S EL COMERCIO APPEALING TO GOVERNMENT TO INVESTIGATE UNITY CONGRESS AND CHARGING AIFLD WITH SUPPORTING UNITY MOVEMENT VIA EFRAIN REDROVAN, PRESIDENT OF ORGANIZING COMMITTEE AND SECRETARY GENERAL OF POSTAL WORKERS FEDERATION. COMMUNICATION IMPUGNS RIGHT OF POSTAL WORKERS TO ORGANIZE AS TRADE UNION, CITING CIVIL SERVICE LAW. ORGANIZATIONS ALLEGEDLY SUPPORTING THE COMMUNIQUE WERE FEW IN NUMBER AND GENERALLY OF LITTLE SIGNIFICANCE. IN SOME CASES SIGNATURES WERE APPENDED WITHOUT SIGNERS KNOWLEDGE OR APPROVAL. LETTER IN SIMILAR VEIN SIGNED BY VILLACRES WAS DELIVERED TO AMBASSADOR BREWSTER JUNE 19 AND WE UNDERSTAND A SEPARATE LETTER HAS BEEN SENT TO PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ.

5. TRADE UNION LEADERS ARE ASTONISHED AND RESENTFUL OF EFFORTS OF VILLACRES AND HIS SUPPORTERS TO DAMAGE FEDERATION LONG AFFILIATED TO CEOSL AND WHOSE SECRETARY GENERAL HAS WORKED FOR THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT, UNTIL RECENTLY IN CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH VILLACRES. FENEPOSTAL ENJOYS LEGAL RECOGNITION OF GOVERNMENT AND ITS MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS ARE LEGALLY ORGANIZED UNDER PROVISIONS OF CIVIL SERVICE LAW. IN HIS LETTER TO MINISTER OF LABOR AND GOE DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL, APPENDED TO LETTER TO AMBASSADOR AND OF WHICH POSTAL WORKERS AWARE, VILLACRES AIMED AT DESTROYING RIGHT OF POSTAL WORKERS TO PARTICIPATE IN TRADE UNION ORGANIZATIONS. TRADE UNIONISTS HERE REGARD THIS AS TRADE UNION TREASON.

6. COMMENT: UNITY CONGRESS APPARENTLY HAD OVERWHELMING SUPPORT OF FREE TRADE UNIONISTS IN COUNTRY AND DESERVES INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION RECOGNITION. MINISTRY OF LABOR HAD NO OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE AT CONGRESS AND WE DO NOT YET KNOW WHETHER THE MINISTRY WILL REMAIN ALOOF FROM THE CUENCA DEVELOPMENTS OR EXTEND LEGAL RECOGNITION. WE WILL BE TAKING FURTHER SOUNDINGS WITHIN GOE TO ASCERTAIN PROBABLE GOVERNMENT REACTION TO CONGRESS AND VILLACRES ACCUSATIONS OF INTERVENTION BY AIFLD (WHICH HE CHARGES IS CIA LINKED) IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ECUADOREAN LABOR WITH A VIEW TO RENEWING AIFLD ACTIVITY
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WITH UNIFIED CEOSL AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE.
BREWSTER

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